

Members

Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson
Sen. Connie Sipes
Rep. Sheila Klinker
Rep. Suzanne Crouch
Sally Lowery
Suda Hopkins
Betty Williams
Christopher Durcholz
Susan Ferverda
Bettye Dunham
Scott Sefton
Sharon Kooi



COMMISSION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 20, 2009
Meeting Time: 10:30 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., 431
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson; Sen. Connie Sipes; Rep. Sheila Klinker; Rep. Suzanne Crouch; Betty Williams; Christopher Durcholz; Bettye Dunham; Scott Sefton.

Members Absent: Sally Lowery; Suda Hopkins; Susan Ferverda; Sharon Kooi.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Lawson called the meeting to order at 10:45 AM and informed the Commission this would be the last meeting of the interim.

II. Presentation by Mr. Peter Bisbecos, Director, DDRS.

Mr. Bisbecos provided data to the Commission regarding the unduplicated number of individuals who are on the waiver waiting lists for support, autism, and developmental disability services (Exhibit 1). Mr. Bisbecos informed the Commission there are approximately 20,500 unduplicated individuals who are on the waiting list for the three waivers. He added that since September 2006 until September 2009, 4,239 individuals were removed from the waiting lists and that between 10,000 and 20,000 individuals have received some kind of service from DDRS. Mr. Bisbecos stated that the 20,500 individuals on the waiver waiting list is an unacceptably large number.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be obtained electronically by requesting copies at licrequests@iga.in.gov. Hard copies can be obtained in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for hard copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for hard copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Chairperson Lawson asked if the number of people being placed on the waiting list is greater than the rate at which individuals are being removed. Mr. Bisbecos confirmed that the rate at which people were placed on the waiting list was greater than DDRS could manage to remove them, resulting in a net increase. He attributed any increase in the waiting list to the increase in waiver service applications that result when individuals see people begin to receive services. These periods of "success" (removing people from the waiting list) further entice individuals to apply for benefits, increasing the waiting list for services. In times when people are not receiving services and being removed from the waiting list, there is less incentive to apply for benefits, as the likelihood of receiving services (as the applicant observes) is less probable. Mr. Bisbecos added that the average time an individual is on the waiver waiting list is approximately 10 years.

Mr. Sefton enquired what solutions DDRS proposes if the waiver waiting list continues to grow faster than DDRS can provide services. Mr. Bisbecos responded that the only way to address this problem is to first build the capacity of the community to provide services to the developmentally disabled. As Mr. Bisbecos stated in previous meetings, even with unlimited resources, there would not be an adequate supply of support service professionals to address the needs of all the consumers in the state. The state of Florida encountered this same problem when they removed everyone from their waiting list; the state eventually found there were not enough service providers in the state to address the demand for services.

Ms. Dunham asked Mr. Bisbecos if individuals currently on waiver services are having their benefits reduced so DDRS could remove more people from the waiver waiting list. Mr. Bisbecos responded that although the OASIS changes may have resulted in some individuals receiving less towards their services, with the budget modification process DDRS has begun implementing, throughout this year consumers should see their benefits increased closer to what they were receiving previously.

Chairperson Lawson asked if there was going to be an increase in the support services capitated rate effective this April. Mr. Bisbecos replied that the rate would increase in April from the current \$13,500 capitated rate to \$16,000. Mr. Durholz enquired if this increased rate would mean more services for the waiver recipients or if this amount would have no effect on services. Mr. Bisbecos assured the Commission only the capitated rate was increased, which should provide more services for recipients and that service costs should not increase.

Ms. Dunham asked Mr. Bisbecos how the changes to the pre-vocational program would affect the current 3,000 recipients. Mr. Bisbecos responded that this program was changed since a majority of program recipients received service for too long and never demonstrated the ability to work independently. He did inform the Commission there were other programs available for any displaced individuals. Mr. Bisbecos confirmed for the Commission the program changes only allowed individuals to receive pre-vocational services for a maximum of 12 to 18 months before having services discontinued.

Ms. Dunham followed up by asking if cutting services had been discussed in wake of the recession. Mr. Bisbecos informed the Commission that currently no discussions about cutting services have taken place, but he was unable to say service cuts were not a future option. Representative Klinker added that within the next year there is general concern that DDRS will make funding cuts to adult education.

The Commission received a brief summary of a report from Legislative Services regarding accreditation policies in other states (Exhibit 2).

Representative Klinker asked what action the Commission would take regarding accreditation of adult day service providers. Chairperson Lawson informed the Commission she thought it would be best to include a statement in the final report about accreditation. She explained that

requiring accreditation would bear additional costs on service providers which would be especially difficult to provide during this recession.

Mr. Jim Hammond clarified that INARF and the Arc of Indiana wanted to see statute revised to create clear and consistent policies for centers that accept state funding. The current confusion rests where some statutes require state accreditation to receive state funding where other parts of statute are silent on this requirement. Representative Klinker asked which national accreditation agency the state should prefer for a state policy. Mr. Hammond responded that both CARF and CQL are fine accreditation entities, but CQL is more expensive. Chairperson Lawson added the state should not attempt to assert through policy, either intentionally or unintentionally, that one accreditation entity is better than another.

III. Discussion of Resolutions Before the Commission.

The Commission discussed two resolutions. The first was a resolution that encouraged FSSA to continue developing the INTrain pilot program as it was first designed and to support efforts to obtain funding for this program (Exhibit 3). Representative Klinker moved to accept the resolution, and Mr. Sefton seconded the motion. The resolution was adopted by consent (8-0).

The second resolution supported goals established by the Alliance for Full Participation campaign to double employment of individuals with developmental disabilities by 2015 (Exhibit 4). Representative Klinker moved to accept the resolution, and Senator Sipes seconded the motion. The resolution was adopted by consent (8-0).

IV. Other Business.

Chairperson Lawson informed the Commission that language would be drafted by Legislative Services to be included in the annual report stating the Commission supported continued funding for developmental disability services and to ensure that services are not cut.

The Commission adjourned at 11:25 AM.